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The SWORD

1966

VOLUME 63 | ISSUE 1



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CONCORDIA ST. PAUL'S OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1966.



*Photo by Katrina Bell,
Editor-In-Chief*

A Letter from the Editor

I feel that it is my responsibility as a person growing in this world to know what is going on inside of it. But to be honest, It's hard to read the news sometimes because it seems like there is nothing but hatred and crime going on. I guess the only thing that keeps me lively throughout all the bad is the truth that lovely and beautiful things are happening all the time and people still try and spread hope, even in this chaotic world.

My name is Katrina Bell. I am majoring in psychology and minoring in writing, which has always been a passion of mine. Despite the fact that a career in journalism is not my ultimate goal, I am very excited, nervous, and blessed to have the opportunity of being the Editor-In-Chief of The Sword. I love my job and I truly hope that this year, every issue of The

Sword is as valuable and truthful as I know all of The Sword staff work hard for it to be. As the year begins, I hope you notice that The Sword has a new look, as we have hoped to modernize it as much as possible to keep it up to date and to keep readers interested. This issue is filled with a lot of incredible articles from writers old and new. I hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed putting it together!

Very Sincerely,
Katrina Bell

Editor-In-Chief, The Sword



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SWORD ARTIST CORNER

History of the Renaissance Festival. That was Then, and This is Now

By Brooke Steigauf

In September of 1971, the first Renaissance Festival was held in Jordan, Minnesota on a plot of land covering twenty-two acres. Forty-five years later, the Renaissance Festival has become an annual tradition for many Midwestern individuals and families who want to experience the past. Relocated to Shakopee and now expanding over 150 acres of Minnesota soil, the Festival is a place where local artisans, creative workers, and eccentric actors gather to put on shows and

sell their often hand-crafted products.

Dancing through the streets, visitors can see fairies, royalty, pirates, peasants, exotic dancers, and everything in between. This year, however, visitors were unpleasantly greeted by a receding parking lot and a cliff-like structure left by the ongoing mining project neighboring the fair grounds. The mining work, done by Bryan Rock Products Inc., is extracting and selling silica sand, which is often used for oil fracking. The company has been eating at the land next to the Renaissance Festival grounds for years now and have long known that the project would eventually

interfere with the event. The mining efforts have already covered over 500 acres of land and the company declined to say how much was left to dig into.

Inside the festival, however, one would never know that the mining project existed. Once inside the gate, visitors forget the long treks from their vehicles and are immediately entranced by the magic of the characters, street-life, and extravaganzas. For so many festival fans, they are extremely uneasy about the news that the fair is moving and afraid that it will not be the same. The Renaissance Festival has not yet found a new location for their future celebrations, which

especially worries the many vendors that rely on the festival for a large portion of their yearly profits. There has been talk about relocating to its original city of Jordan, Minnesota or to Bell Plaine, both of which are not far from its current resting place. Although it is known that the limestone beneath the fairgrounds is worth a lot more than the fair itself, it is understandable why attendants of the festival who admire it for its element of nostalgia are having troubles adjusting to the idea of new change and potential differences in its future.

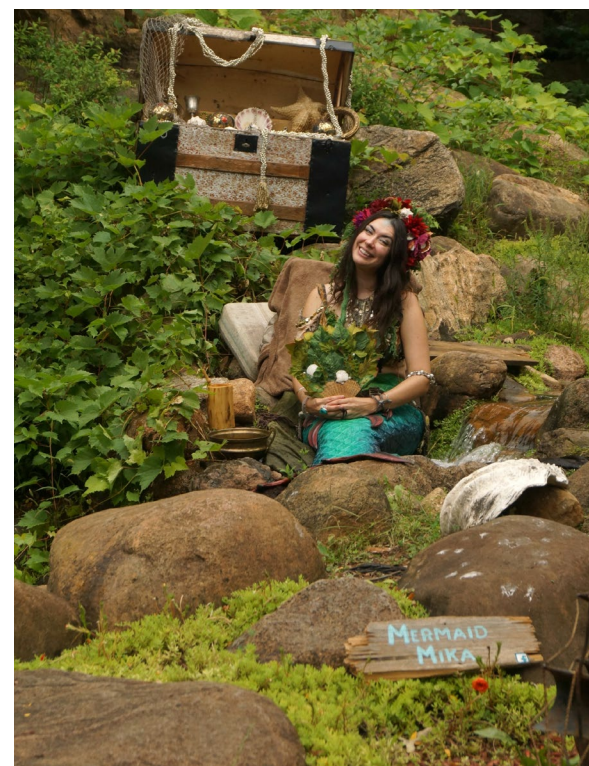


Photo by HD Downs "Mermaid Mika"

"The Great Minnesota Get-Together" State Fair 2016

By Julie Hagert

This year, the "Great Minnesota Get-Together" was one for the history books with a record breaking 1,943,719 people attending. This is not surprising though since it's the largest state fair in the Untied States by average daily attendance and the weather was near perfect! Minnesotans from all areas of the state, Iowans escaping the cornfields for the weekend, and Wisconsinites in quest of better premium cheese all gather together for this annual event; Steve Urkel even made an appearance. Young and old, tall or short, chunky or skinny, first time attendee or 15th year veteran...the fair does not discriminate and has something for everyone.

The Minnesota State fair is always run for 12 days straight and ends on Labor Day. The fair grounds are located in Falcon Heights, right off of Snelling Avenue, making it convenient for us Concordia students to experience. 1859 was the first year the state fair was put on and has been a tradition ever since. There are many things to enjoy

at the fair including a boundless amount of food (deep fried, on a stick, or even both!), rides on the Midway, exhibits, animals, music, and much more!

The food selection at the fair has been one of the popular reasons people come out year after year. Some staple items include deep fried food of any variety (Twinkies seem to be at the top of the list), foot long hot dogs, Pronto Pups (which actually sold their 25 millionth this year), french fries, and the infamous Sweet Martha's Cookies that has everyone's mouth watering. Beside the fan favorites, there were also 32 new food items added to the madness this summer. A few of these were the Candied Bacon Donut Sliders, Macaroni and Cheese Curds, Cheesy French Onion Monkey Bread, and the Candied Bacon BLT. As you can tell, this is not what your average grandma cooks up. That is why you need to come try these and the many new concoctions that are sure to make the state fair an unforgettable experience next year.

The state fair is not just a food lover's paradise, it is also an entertainment attraction mixing old musical acts with new up

and coming artists. The Grand Stand is where these performances take place. From Johnny Cash and Neil Diamond to 3 Doors Down, the Goo Goo Dolls, and Toby Keith, the live music element is always diverse and caters to all ages. This year's lineup included the nostalgic pop band Weezer and new hit rap artist sensation G-Eazy. Outside of the Grand Stand, you could additionally witness the crowd of teenage girls waiting to see their childhood obsession, Nick Jonas, perform with the talented Demi Lovato.

"The fair does not discriminate and has something for everyone".

You see why they call it "The Great Minnesota Get-Together" now? It truly is great, if not a must-experience event! An old tradition with new twists every year, the Minnesota State fair is fun for the whole family and a definite addition you should add to your bucket list!



Photo by Gretel Ryan "Minnesota State Fair"

Leading Up to the Election

By Dalton Siedschlag

As the 2016 presidential election draws closer and closer, so does the inevitable decision we have to make as a country. Who will lead us and who will be our face on the international stage? The contenders this election year are none other than the Democrat nominee Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump for the Republican side. They have both campaigned strongly and have amassed quite the following behind themselves. However, both of them carry a less than ideal or respectable background in politics and business.

That being said, some may not know what those issues are or may need a refresher on current events. Hillary has the scandal involving a private email server she was not permitted to have, as well as the Benghazi incident that involved the deaths of four Americans. Trump is no boy scout either, he has his own controversies. Namely, he has the baggage of his failed university with all of its legal issues, as well as his very questionable ideas on foreign affairs.

Many students on campus are in favor of Hillary, but another larger portion of the student body are actually choosing to not let this be their first time to vote. They are unhappy with their

options and one anonymous student is extremely disappointed in what both presidential candidates appear to be moving towards. This election is highly contested from both the Republicans and the Democrats.

No one is doubting the outcome of this election will be historic. The business man turned president or the first woman to become president. No matter who wins, our proud country will change dramatically and we can only hope in positive ways.

The Zika Virus

By Julie Hagert

Next time you turn on the news you might see headlines about the Zika virus, or maybe you already have. The Zika virus has been a popular topic of conversation lately and some may wonder why. Zika is a mosquito borne virus that is spread by Aedes mosquitos. It is a part of the same family as dengue fever, yellow fever, West Nile virus, and chikungunya. The word “Zika” comes from the Zika forest of Uganda, where the virus was first found in 1947. Since the 1950’s, the disease was spread near the equator from Africa to Asia. The virus then began to spread eastward towards the Americas in 2007 to present day, thus leading to the 2015-16 Zika virus epidemic.

The infection is extremely rare in North America with fewer than 1,000 cases per year, but it is on the rise. As



By WebMD

of September 14, 2016 the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, reports that there are currently over 18,000 confirmed Zika cases in the U.S. This includes 3,176 cases are in the continental U.S., with 3,132 of these being travel-associated cases. There are 15,647 cases in U.S. territories such as Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Minnesota is at a total of 47 cases all of which are associated with travel.

The troubling part about the virus is that it is hard to determine if you have it. Only one in five infected people develop symptoms. At the moment, there are no rapid response tests that can be used to quickly identify the disease. Symptoms include

fever, rash, joint pain, and red eyes. Because these symptoms are misidentified with a common cold and or allergies, patients brush these side effects off and fail to get additional medical help. Even if a person does identify that they have Zika, their test results must be sent after the first two weeks or less after symptoms initially appear to sophisticated laboratories

which delays the diagnosis.

Prevention methods are very important to consider if you don’t want to catch this virus. Ways to prevent the disease include protecting yourself from mosquito bites by staying indoors or using repellent with deet, being abstinent if you know your partner has the virus, and wearing protective clothing that covers your whole body when traveling places with many cases of the virus.

Zika is most harmful to women who are pregnant because of microcephaly. Microcephaly is a significant birth defect that has a variety of symptoms, depending upon how severe it is. Newborns may have seizures, abnormally small heads, developmental delay, difficulty swallowing, hearing loss, vision problems, and intellectual disability. This is a permanent condition for the infants affected. Due to the extreme risk for the

baby, pregnant women or women soon to become pregnant are advised to not travel to countries with Zika transmission.

The Zika virus concern is well warranted. With cases few and far between in the Midwest and Minnesota, it is highly unlikely this virus will affect you, but it is good to be aware if making travel plans in the near future.



ITT Tech Closing

By Brooke Steigauf

The U.S. Education Department banned ITT Technical Institute from enrolling students using federal financial aid money in all fifteen of its California Campuses. The college was then left with no choice but to close down all of its 130 campuses, nationwide on Tuesday, September 6, 2016. This gives insight as to how much the institution relied on funding from student loans for the profit of the school. According to the Los Angeles Times, the institution is responsible for over 130 campuses across the country, in which it enrolled 45,000 students last year, making a profit of \$850 million from them. This year, over 40,000 enrolled students are now without a college to attend and 8,000 employees are without work. ITT Tech had disclosed to its students previously that they may be facing

some financial problems but promised all enrolled students that they would be able to graduate.

Many students are feeling as though the last years of their lives at the institute were a waste, although most of those students will be eligible for the options that the Education Department and ITT Tech has set up for them if they wish to continue pursuing their education. There have been two options proposed to the students: students can complete an application to have their student loans forgiven or they can apply to another school and get their credits transferred, but keep the student loans. Many feel that these options do not compensate well enough for the damage being done to the lives of both the students and the staff.

ITT Tech also performed below par on several other basic standards and appeared to not be making any

changes. The institute had also gained a reputation of making promises to students without following through. On top of that, they often left their students piled high in student debt and without a good enough education to achieve the lifestyles they had been hoping for. ITT Tech understands the severity of the inconvenience it has caused for its students and blame the government’s action for the ordeal.



By Michael Nunez



By David Crane, Los Angeles Daily News

Professor Spotlight
Dr. Kim Flottesmesch
By Renee Cortez

Dr. Kim Flottesmesch is one of the three fulltime instructors in Concordia's Communication department. She has been a part of the Concordia community since 2010 when she was hired as an adjunct professor. Delightfully, in 2012, the school decided to hire her as a full-time tenure track professor of Communication.

Flottesmesch had a long history in education before she arrived at Concordia University, St. Paul. Flottesmesch, a Wisconsin native, obtained her Bachelor of Science in Vocational Rehabilitation and Special Education at the University of Wisconsin, Stout. However, she did not stop there. She moved on to received her Masters of Arts in Communication at North Dakota State University.

Then Flottesmesch pursued her Doctor of Philosophy in higher education, with an emphasis in Communication, at the University of Idaho. She has always known that she wanted to be a teacher, but she has not always taught post-secondary communication.

"I started my career in teaching as a junior and senior high school special education instructor for a small rural school district in Minnesota," stated Flottesmesch. "I have always had a passion for working with individuals with disabilities because of my personal experiences of growing up with a brother who has spinal bifida and is legally paralyzed." Flottesmesch has a teaching minor in communication studies. She ended up connecting with her minor classes more than her major classes and knew that she would be getting

her advanced degrees in communication. "What really struck my passion in the field was my first public speaking class. The material was so applicable to every facet of business and industry and was something that I enjoyed doing," she added.

Her journey to Concordia came once her twins entered 1st grade and she decided she was ready to get her feet wet again with teaching after being on a five year hiatus as a stay at home mom. Looking at many of the local institutions around the Twin Cities area she decided CSP felt like a "good fit." She has been on the fast track ever since, with being promoted to full-time, creating and being the editor of the online journal entitled "Concordia Journal of Communication Research," and briefly holding the role of Chair of the Communications Department in the Spring of

2016 while the current head was on sabbatical.

She is a woman on a mission. "I love the field of communication studies!" she stated with exuberance. "I love sharing that passion with students at CSP. Communication is such a foundational skill, yet people often take for granted that it is a skill. You can fine-tune that skill, improve upon it, and use it to enhance your life experiences. It gives me great pleasure to be able to share what I know, and continue to learn in the field, with students at Concordia."

When asked what her favorite moment has been teaching at Concordia, she responded that there have been too many to share. "It is the little moments: when a classroom culture is created that is unifying, connected and open to dialogue on class topics. Also, when students share with me how a course topic



Concordia University Kim Flottesmesch

or our interaction has made an impact on their life or given them a "light bulb" moment." Flottesmesch

teaches her classes with an air of approachability and that learning can be fun.



Photo submitted by CALL Center, Welcome Weekend

Concordia's Welcome Weekend
By Loc Luong

According to freshman, Chenu Vang, "Welcome weekend was a great experience and it was crazy seeing how much energy the student workers had. I also loved the events we did on the football field, but what I enjoyed most was Feed My Starving Children." This weekend welcomed around 200 incoming freshmen, nine Comet Crew student workers, and fourteen peer advisors.

This weekend featured the Fun Fest and Building

Better Bears events. Fun Fest included various inflatable obstacle courses, pony races, and Hungry Bears. Hungry Bears is a game where one student was on a scooter and another student would push them to the center to grab as many balloons as they can in a basket. Karaoke seemed to be the freshmen's favorite activity, because it gave them an opportunity to step out of their comfort zone and show off their beautiful voices.

Building Better Bears consisted of various activities that were held at Sea Foam Stadium. Sophomore advisor, Anthony Herr, stated, "My favorite event

of Welcome Weekend was the big rock-paper-scissors game, I loved this activity because it got the freshmen involved and it got them to be competitive with one another. It was a great way to meet the new freshmen, and introduce them to UMOJA, CHUSA, and various groups on campus."

After the stadium activities, the freshmen were taken to do a service learning project at Feed my Starving Children. Afterwards, they had lunch at various restaurants along University Street.

This was an awesome activity because it showed

the freshmen the many restaurants that are available so close to campus.

Next was the scavenger hunt where they had to look for Comet Crew members who were stationed at checkpoints to give them their next clue. Comet Crew members could tell that the freshman were competitive while doing the scavenger hunt, because many teams that came to their station were running and almost out of breath.

Fellow Comet Crew Member, Anthony Vu, said, "I really enjoyed working Welcome Weekend. I remember when I was a freshman, Welcome Weekend was only as fun as the student workers made it. So I wanted to make it my goal to ensure the freshmen had a memorable time, and they will be able to remember who I am. The energy from the Comet Crew was phenomenal!

We had such a dedicated team, who wanted to ensure a welcoming atmosphere

for the freshmen." Overall, Concordia University put together a strong group of student workers to ensure that the freshmen class felt welcomed and made sure they had fun. Welcome Weekend was a success, many students have talked to Comet Crew

members and Peer Advisors and said, "Thank you for your hard work, and for having so much energy and enthusiasm." With that being said, Concordia University would like to welcome the Class of 2020.



Photo submitted by CALL Center, Welcome Weekend



Photo submitted by CALL Center, Welcome Weekend

News Highlights from the Summer

By Jerry Freels

This summer was filled with large headlines proclaiming traumatic events and tension that divides America. Here is a summary of a few distressing, but important, incidents of June and July. Then the big news of August ended the summer and brought the United States together on a single team in Rio.

On June 8, 2016, former Stanford University student, Brock Turner, was convicted of sexually assaulting an unconscious woman behind a dumpster. Turner was sentenced to six months in jail and three years of probation and is now back in his home town after serving three months of his sentence. Turner blamed his actions on drinking too much, but the victim denounced his actions by saying, "Regretting drinking is not the same as regretting sexual assault."

Around 2 a.m. on June 12, 2016, security guard Omar Mateen opened fire on a group of 320, mostly Hispanic, partiers as they waited around to be served for last calls at Pulse, a gay nightclub. In Orlando, Florida, Mateen killed 49 people and wounded 53 other people in the attack. There is a lot of contention about whether it was a hate crime or terrorist attack on a specific group of individuals. This was the deadliest attack

on American soil since the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Centers.

On July 7, 2016, a man named Philando Castile was shot and killed by a police officer from the Falcon Heights Police Department. The incident started out as just another traffic stop, but turned deadly as Castile was reaching toward his pocket and the police officer misunderstood the gesture for reaching for a gun, and reacted accordingly. The recording of the event came to light as the victim's girlfriend recorded the aftermath of the traffic stop. She is heard in the background screaming, "He was reaching for his wallet!"

After the event happened, it sparked a number of protests across the metro area. The first protest happened at the scene of the incident where about 200 people gathered there chanting, "We will stand our ground and not move," as officers tried to clear the area. Once the area was cleared, the protesters marched to the Governor's Mansion. The crowd demanded that the Governor come out and make a statement, vowing to stay there until he does.

Then on July 10, 2016, just after midnight, the Black Lives Matter protesters marched on Interstate 94 West bound, demanding justice for Philando. After the State patrol blocked their path on the freeway, about 200 of the protesters refused to leave the highway.

As the officers attempted to clear the area, they were forced to use smoke bombs and come out in riot gear. Several officers were injured, none life threatening, as they cleared the highway and arrested the protestors who were not complying. For the next few weeks, the protesters camped out in front the of the Governor's mansion. After about a week or two, the officers were told to clear the area so they could reopen the road of Summit Ave. That is when the protest turned violent and there was another round of police and protester injuries.

From August 5-21 this year, the Olympics were held in Rio de Janeiro. While there, Team USA brought home the most gold medals of any other country that participated, reaching an overall total of over 1,000 gold medals over the years. The United States has topped the gold medal standing for the past six summer Olympics.

Whether the big news story happened in Rio or just down the street from Concordia, the world is constantly changing and being shaken by the people living in it. Being informed and aware of events around is as much as responsibility as a curiosity that needs to be satiated.

A Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity: CSP Makes It to the Finals In Media Scholarship Competition

By Renee Cortez

Cydi Yang and Chris Arionus are two of three CSP students that had great academic adventures in Washington D.C. this summer. The two seniors were one of six teams that made it to the finals for the Washington Media Scholars Foundation. This foundation is a non-profit scholarship organization based in Arlington, Virginia that provides the opportunity for college students to gain first-hand knowledge of the public policy advertising fields and to meet and potentially work for leaders in the media industry. Both Yang and Arionus were surprised and ecstatic at how far they got in the competition.

Too few students go online and look for scholarship opportunities. Arionus was an exception. He found out about the program through his searching and approached Yang with the possibility of being partners. "I chose Cydi to be my partner because I know that she's very creative," he stated. From there, their journey began.

"I didn't know much about it at first, and did not realize how great of an opportunity it actually turned out to be," Yang said. She is proud of herself for not giving up and backing out during the "countless sleepless nights, a lot of excel work, a lot of math, a lot of focus, and a lot of revision of our memorandum and media plan."

The dyad was given a simulated case about a certain city that was in need of allocating a budget for media vehicles to be utilized in promoting a certain campaign. "It took



Washington Media Scholars Foundation, Cydi Yang and Chris Arionus

us about three months to work on it," stated Arionus. The first rounds included over 200 applicants. The semi-finals had 30 and finals took place in Washington D.C. Only 12 people (6 teams) were chosen for the all-expense paid trip to the nation's capital. When he found out they had made it to the finals, Arionus stated he was at work at Target and he started dancing in the breakroom.

"When we reached finals, we had to organize/plan a media strategy for a campaign to allow people at the age of 16 the ability to vote in the simulated city given," explained Yang. "We had to allocate a budget for each media vehicle we chose. There was a lot of flexibility in what our strategy was. We had to figure out how to use excel efficiently and utilize our critical math skills, patience, and organization to complete our media plan."

The two had the opportunity to meet and interact with many leaders in the media world including big names like Bob Schieffer. This made a difference to Yang because these important people were treating them with respect and she felt valued as a scholar. There was even a Networking Reception near the end of the event for all the finalists to attend.

The most challenging part, according to Yang, was

presenting their project. "It was very nerve-racking," she said. Arionus agreed, saying, "The most challenging part was the actual presentation itself. We were always learning about new approaches on how to present and change our media campaign. It was a challenge to present in front of judges, due to being nervous about them accepting changes or not."

Even though they did not win, they did not leave feeling like they had lost a single thing. "We got a once in a lifetime experience, which included making connections with potential employers," stated Arionus. Yang also called it a once in a lifetime opportunity and urges her fellow CSP scholars to apply for next year's competition.

IF IT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU, IT'S IMPORTANT TO US

By: Dave Galloway

Campus safety is something that everyone worries about, and in the heart of Saint Paul, it is not difficult to forget the dangers that people can face every day when you hear police sirens and see the news. Fortunately, Concordia has a plan in place to keep people safe and at ease when it comes to being on campus.

My name is Dave Galloway and I am the Director of Security at Concordia. I wanted to make this first article an introduction for

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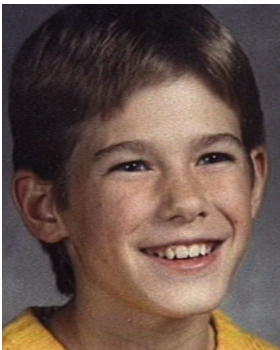
wallpapersafari.com, Beach chairs

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those students that are not aware of what your Concordia Security team – G4S Secure Solutions, has to offer. We try to provide constant safety and security patrols of all campus property, we offer a 24-hour escort service as requested, and we are always available to assist you with any questions and concerns that you might have. Our security office is located in Meyer Hall, room 124 and is the place for you to get your FREE parking permits, safety and security information, and your Student IDs. This is also the place to pick up some fresh mints.

We take our jobs very seriously at G4S Security Solutions, and we constantly strive to demonstrate our sound security minds while displaying our customer service hearts. So get to know us, say hello in the halls, we like getting to know the students, and we are always here to make sure that you are safe at Concordia. I will be writing more articles, so please feel

free to give me suggestions on what you are interested to know more about concerning Concordia's security team.



minnesota.cbslocal.com
Jacob Wetterling, 11 years old

Jacob Wetterling's Killer Caught
By Brianna Holtmeier

When a horrendous crime occurred years ago, the illusion of safety was shattered for Minnesota families. Now, after twenty-seven years of uncertainty, the Wetterlings, natives of St. Joseph, Minnesota, finally found out what happened to their son, Jacob, when he disappeared from his hometown at age 11.

On October 22, 1989, three young boys were riding their bikes home from a movie in St. Joseph, MN. Their innocent evening was interrupted when a masked man with a gun told them to stop and asked them their ages. The man let two of the boys run away, but handcuffed Jacob Wetterling and ordered him to get into the passenger seat of his car. Jacob innocently asked, "What did I do wrong?" The kidnapper, Danny Heinrich, drove Jacob to a gravel pit by Paynesville, MN and sexually assaulted him. Afterwards, Heinrich recalled that Jacob asked if he was taking him home. "I said 'I can't take you all the way home,'" Heinrich remembered. Jacob then started to cry.

Heinrich saw a police car nearby and panicked. He pulled out his gun, loaded it, aimed it at the young boy, and pulled the trigger. The gun jammed at the first shot attempt, but the second shot attempt hit Jacob in the head and he died. Heinrich quickly buried him off the

road in a shallow grave. The truth about what happened to Jacob Wetterling so long ago may not have ever come to light if a similar case had not been recently solved. Another Minnesota boy, Jared Scheierl, had been sexually assaulted nine months before Jacob was taken, and Heinrich was a suspect. However, in the 1980s, DNA testing was unreliable, so it was not until 2015 that the state crime lab was able to identify the DNA on Jared's jacket as Danny Heinrich's. This provided means for a warrant to search Heinrich's house, which uncovered a large amount of child pornography.

The County Attorney, Janelle Kendell, realized the potential leverage of using a plea deal to find answers for the Wetterling family. In exchange for pleading guilty to a federal charge of child pornography, Heinrich agreed to confess to the abduction, assault, and murder of Jacob Wetterling.

Heinrich may face up to 20 years in prison for the pornography crime. However, Heinrich was not charged with the murder of Jacob, in exchange for showing where Jacob was buried. The parents of Jacob stood behind this plea deal, favoring the closure of knowing where their son was buried. Nevertheless, once Heinrich finishes his sentence, he may be charged with a civil case concerning the Wetterling abduction, assault, and murder. After the abduction of their son, the Wetterling parents became influential in speaking out for finding missing children and lobbied for a national sex offender registry to be established.

The Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act was enacted in 1994, which was later amended to Megan's Law. This law requires records and tracking of convicted sex offenders in every state, as well as releasing information to the

public about sex offenders. The tragedy of Jacob Wetterling's assault, abduction, and murder will never be forgotten, and as Patty Wetterling, Jacob's mother, stated in a press conference on Tuesday, September 6, "We need to heal." That truth is stated for all Minnesotans who were affected along with the Wetterling family throughout these twenty-seven years.



Photo by Brooke Steigrauf
One Stop College Shop
By Mara Grau

Back-to-school season can be a very daunting time of year, even when you're a college student, but it doesn't have to be. Whether you are personally footing the bill, or your parents are nice enough to help out, shopping for school can get quite expensive, especially with a

lot of the cost of textbooks. There are different ways to cut down on school expenses, including renting your textbooks, watching for sales, and taking advantage of student discounts. Most college courses require you to purchase your own textbooks, which doesn't sound bad until you look at how much they are going to cost. In most cases,

people have three choices for getting textbooks: buying them new, buying them used, or renting them. Purchasing brand new textbooks is typically the easiest option, but it is also the most expensive, which doesn't make it the most favorable option. Buying used textbooks is the next best option, especially since there is a wide variety of places to look. The bookstore at Concordia offers used textbooks when they have them in supply, but what if they don't have the book you need? Many websites offer used books as well, such as amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and chegg.com. The two most important things to keep in mind when shopping for used textbooks is quality and cost. A used book with a very low price won't always be in the best condition, which is why it is better to shop around for the best option.

Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Chegg also offer textbook rentals, which is usually the cheapest option for students. It is very important that if you decide to rent a book from a website, that you pay attention to the date that the book must be returned by. Some textbooks may need to be returned prior to the end of the semester, so renting from Concordia's bookstore may be a better option. Shopping for other school necessities can get pretty expensive as well. Luckily, many stores have sales on their school supplies, and some stores even offer discounts for students. On Best Buy's website, students can register to receive special coupons through email for deals on items such as laptops, tablets, and appliances. Amazon.com offers students free two-day shipping for six months, discounted Amazon Prime,

and other deals. If you are interested in bulk snack foods or drinks, Sam's Club offers a Collegiate Membership for savings on college essentials. Restaurants including Subway, Burger King, Firehouse Subs, Dairy Queen, and Chipotle all offer some kind of discount for college students when they show their student ID. Select clothing stores offer deals like free shipping on online orders or a certain percent off of your purchase. Some of these stores include Toms, Banana Republic, Topshop, Charlotte Russe, and Sally Beauty Supply. When searching for sales and discounts for students, it is best to look at a store's website to see what discounts and sales they might have.

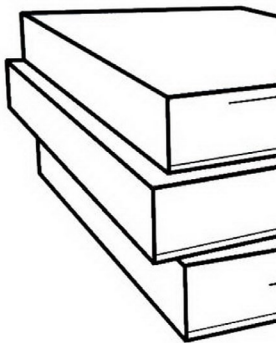
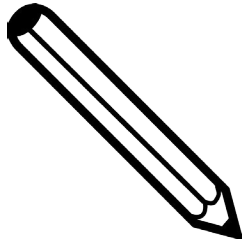
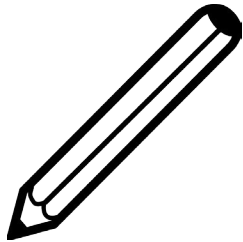




Photo by Concordia Athletics, Alquawn Vickers

Male Athlete of the Month: Alquawn Vickers

By Cole Schuessler

Last year, when the Concordia St. Paul team kicked off the 2015 football season, Alquawn Vickers had yet to play a collegiate down of football. And while the

Golden Bears struggled out of the gate and throughout the season, Vickers made his presence known from the start and continued to build on his success throughout the year.

The Fort Pierce, Florida native led the team in receptions and returned two kickoffs for touchdowns, earning the

NSIC (Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference) newcomer of the year award. Vickers' outstanding 2015 lead him to being named Lindy's 2nd team All-American as an all-purpose player and Concordia's Male Athlete of the Month.

Standing at 5 foot 8 inches, Vickers is not the prototypical size for a college wide receiver. But what the redshirt sophomore lacks in height, he makes up for in speed and agility. When asked which NFL players he tries to emulate, Vickers mentioned wide receiver/return man Tavon Austin of the Los Angeles Rams and veteran wide receiver Steve Smith Sr. of the Baltimore Ravens. Both players are similar in stature to Vickers, standing 5'9 and 5'8 respectively, but both also possess the speed and shiftiness that has made Vickers successful. Vickers utilizes his quickness on both offense and special teams, as he was first or second on the team in catches, yards, and receiving touchdowns last year, while

also setting the school record for kickoff return yards in a season with 998. His season also included three straight weeks with 100+ plus yard kickoff returns, and a career game against Wayne State where he caught nine passes for 108 yards and two touchdowns.

Vickers earned many honors throughout the 2015 season besides NSIC Newcomer of the Year. The wide receiver/return man was named to the Don Hansen All-American Third team as an all-purpose player, leading Division II with 1,119 return yards (KR/PR). Vickers was also NSIC Special Teams Player of the Week with a 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown September 19 last year against Minot State.

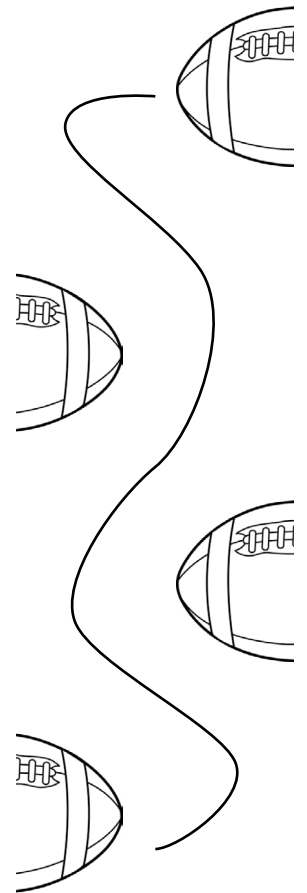
Off the football field Vickers is a sports management major, considering working with middle school or high school age kids with schoolwork and football fundamentals as a future

job. While he has developed as a player and competed hard on the field, he said the biggest thing that he has learned from CSP football has to do with matters off the field. "What I have learned since being apart of the CSP football program is that it is not just about winning games," Vickers stated. "[It's] more about building relationships and setting myself up to be a better man in life."

Coming all the way from Florida, the Fort Pierce Central High School graduate attributes much of who is as a player and person to his faith and his family. "I would first thank God," Vickers said. In regard to his family he stated, "My grandma was always a huge part of my life, and also my brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles always made sure that I stayed on track and out of trouble growing up."

While Vickers comes from a long distance and does not have the prototypical size of a successful football player, he has proven that with

his speed and elusiveness he deserves respect with the football in his hands as he has earned CSP's Male Athlete of the Month.



Female Athlete of the Month: Riley Hanson

By Cydi Yang

Standing at 5'11, Riley Hanson, a middle blocker for Concordia University's volleyball team, is more than just an excellent athlete. Hanson is a senior this year at Concordia, majoring in Biology with a double minor in Chemistry and Mathematics.

A great athlete and a committed student, Riley recently finished applying to dental school after three years of hard work in ensuring the proper steps towards the completion of her application; it was one of the proudest moments in her life. It has always been her dream since junior year in high school to be a dentist and now she is one step closer in reaching that dream. Aside from her tight schedule with volleyball and

her academics, Hanson loves the outdoors. Growing up on a lake, Hanson grew up loving nature and enjoying water sports. Not only does the outdoors give her joy but also the people she loves, her friends and her family. "I don't think there is a greater joy in life than being around people that bring out the best 'you'", says Hanson. One person that has inspired her greatly is her mom. She is a role model to Hanson, as she is described as the strongest and most independent woman Hanson has ever encountered. She coached Hanson in volleyball throughout high school, which in turn has made her the athlete and person she is today.

Hanson feels blessed that she has had the opportunity to play her favorite sport in college even though it was the most challenging sport she has ever played.

Knowing how much joy it brings her, knowing the hard work she put in and her competitive nature, it was inevitable that she would not excel in it.

Hanson believes her best qualities are being a genuine, honest and positive person. It is confirmed as colleague Toby Yang commented, "She's approachable and easy to talk to, kind, thoughtful and intelligent. I think Riley is quite a humble person and that is a hard trait to come by," when he found out that Hanson was going to be highlighted as female athlete of the month.

Hanson expresses how much it means to her to have the students and staff supporting the volleyball program. "Having people supporting us and coming to our games is truly an amazing feeling. A huge thank you to those that have shown us this support."

Concordia Football team Opens Season on a Strong Note

By Jerry Freels

Concordia's football team wants to forget what they went through last year. After a 1-10 record last season the rebuilding has begun. Concordia added 25 transfers from different schools throughout the country, and Concordia is looking for the best year in six years. Shelly Johnson, a transfer from North Dakota State community college seemed very positive on the outcome of the team's potential for the 2016 season.

The Golden Bears have looked good in the early weeks of what is being called their rebuilding year. The first game of the year was a complete shut out of the University of Mary's with Concordia winning

17-0. Then Saturday, September 10, they traveled up to Minnesota Crookston and blew them out 41-18, smashing through them like they were a high school team. Junior quarterback, Ron Johnson, finished the day 18 of 27 passing for 239 yards with two touchdowns and no interceptions. The defense picked up right where they left off shutting out the University of Mary's. Making his first start at middle linebacker, Junior, J.J. Przybylka had a team high of 17 tackles. With another win under their belt the Golden Bears are looking good. Alquawn Vickers led the offense with 5 receptions for 21 yards and a game breaking 70 yard kick return. Concordia is hoping for a breakthrough year and a possible bowl game. The last time they made it to a bowl game was in 2010 when the team finished with an 8-4 record while starting that season off 5-2.

Newcomers, Veterans Highlight Opening Rounds for Concordia Golf

By Cole Schuessler

As the Concordia men and women's golf teams start off the fall season, new and old faces are making appearances at the top of the leaderboards. Freshman Noah Rasinski began his career on a high note, winning the individual competition for the men at the Battle of the Falls in Larchwood, Kansas. The women's team, competing in the Central Region Fall Preview in Olathe, Kansas, was led by Savannah Stone, who improved on her first round score by three shots to finish in 27th in the field of 90. The men's team placed 3rd out of 7 teams in the Augustana hosted tournament while the women finished in 12th in an 18 team field

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 8

team placed 3rd out of 7 teams in the Augustana hosted tournament while the women finished in 12th in an 18 team field of a tournament run by Southwestern Oklahoma State.

The men’s team returns two key seniors from last year, Chance Maiers and Trent Anderson. Both Maiers and Anderson had solid debuts at the Battle of the Falls Tournament 54 hole tournament, as they finished tied for 18th with +17 scores. But the biggest story to start the year was freshman Noah Rasinski’s first tournament. The Lakeville South graduate was the only player in the tournament to finish under par (-1), as he vaulted himself from sixth place to the top of the leaderboard with a 68 on the final day. It was Concordia’s first individual win since Adam Petterson in 2014.

Rounding out the five-team competitors for the Golden Bears was sophomore Tyler Dunn (+19) and redshirt Freshman Brian Peterson (+29). The men’s

golf team will also look for contributions from senior Ben Herwig, junior Deion Kelly, sophomore transfer Mike Vowels, and freshman Gavin Jocelyn.

The women’s team is also returning two key seniors, Brittany Neff and the aforementioned Savannah Stone. Neff was second on team in the Central Region Fall Preview, finishing with a +27, only behind Stone’s +17. The seniors both improved their scores from round 1 to 2, as Stone cut her strokes by three while Neff improved by seven shots. Other contributors to Concordia’s women’s golf team this season will include freshman Heather Clausen, returning sophomores Sheridan McCoy and Kelsey Timm, and sophomore transfer Sophie Hill, who has joined the Golden Bears after a season at Division I Drake.

As CSP golf and coach Taylor Auman look to their seniors for leadership, the newcomers and younger players will also have to step up to fill the shoes of those who graduated from

Concordia. The men lost Garrett Edmond and Nick Auman, the teams’ top two players in terms of average round. The women’s team will have to try to replace the production of Rachel Gray. Gray, who reached the Division II national championships two years in a row, holds Concordia records for lowest average score in a season, in a career, and in an individual round.

After some strong individual and team performances to start the season, the Golden Bears golf teams will look to continue to build off of and improve from their opening rounds as they continue the 2016 Fall season.

Womens Soccer

By Aaron Ronoyne

The Women’s soccer team kicked off their season in Missouri on September 2. They matched up against Lindenwood University (Mo.) and lost in double overtime 2-1. Sophomore, Jade Weller got the lone goal for the Golden Bears, with an assist going to fellow sophomore,



Photo by Coach Bellis "Womens Soccer Team"

Mary Kaiser. The ladies dropped their second game of the weekend to Maryville University (Mo.) by a score of 2-0. The squad will look to build off their 2015 season where they went 7-7-1 in the NSIC. The team is returning three seniors this year as well as bringing aboard nine freshmen.

They will be relying heavily on the likes of senior forward, Chelsie Lindsay, to find the back of the net. Last year she was second on the team with 5 goals and 16 points. Other key players this year are defenders Jade Weller and Anna Haub, forward Hannah Pedersen, and midfielder Erica Landry.

Redshirt sophomore, Emily Nelson will look to get many starts as the goalkeeper this season.

Head coach Steven Bellis says, “The CSP soccer team is young, energetic and ready to get back into the NSIC playoffs and beyond. The conference soccer level keeps getting stronger and we are working hard collectively to be a big player in the conference. Specifically, we have a solid back line and goalkeeper. We also have lots of talent in midfield and the scoring ability to do well.”

Last season came to a close when the team lost to

Minnesota State University, Mankato 6-2 in the NSIC playoffs. The team will look to get further past the first round of the playoffs this year. Coach Bellis also commented on how prepared the team is for the 2016 season, “The 27 player squad came in two weeks early and were already in tip top shape. They then proceeded to put in many hours on the field and off to be ready to play.” Coach Bellis also encourages students to come and support their fellow Golden Bears,

“Soccer is the world’s game. Come cheer us on.”

New CSP logo

By: Julie Hagert

Walking through the hallways on campus or outside on your way to the Gangelhoff, you may notice sports team representing an unfamiliar logo on the front of his or her jersey. This isn’t the typical “CU” we are used to seeing in navy and gold or the same logo on Comet the bear’s shirt. The new Concordia St. Paul logo is written as three letters, CSP.

The up-to-date appearance has a block lettered CSP in slab serif font, swapping it out with the previous connecting CU logo used by Concordia’s athletic programs. A cross is inserted in-between the “S” and “P” of the block lettering, which is one of the more noticeable differences. Creating the new visual identity of

the Golden bears was a yearlong process, which incorporated background research and ideas from the graphic design students, admin, athletics, and graphic designer Michael Skjei. Michael attended North Dakota State University and Moorhead State University where he obtained a degree in architecture and art. He has thirty plus years of creative design experience and won national awards.

The new logo really does a great job with combining the church into the athletics. Concordia St. Paul is one big community and it shouldn’t feel divided with athletics on one side and church work on the other. If you go inside the chapel you can identify the new letter mark logo as well. It ties into Concordia’s mission statement quite smoothly. As stated, “The

mission of Concordia University, St. Paul, a university of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, is to prepare students for thoughtful and informed living, for dedicated service to God and humanity, for enlightened care of God’s creation, all within the context of the Christian Gospel.”

Moving forward, the university still kept its institutional logo, which represents a shield with four sections that include a cross, globe, feather quill, and a person. So don’t be alarmed if you see a new logo around campus, a little change never hurt anybody.



news.csp.edu, Concordia’s athletic logo designed by Michael Skjei



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Our Golden Bear Running for Gold

By Tanner Peterson

As the 2016 Summer Olympics wrapped up in late August, many news corporations focused on some of the top stories such as the Final Five's dominate performance, Ryan Lochte's lying debacle, Michael Phelps' amazing and final performance, and Usain Bolt's quadrennial dominance. But what the national news stations didn't capture was a captivating story of one of Concordia's own.

Heather Miller Koch grew up in a small town in southern Wisconsin called Columbus. As Koch grew, she found her passions for basketball and track and field. During high school, Koch captured a state championship in the triple jump in 2003 and in 2004 finished as the runner-up in

the triple jump. These kind of performances paid off as Heather was able to play both basketball and track and field at St. Cloud State. After participating in both track and basketball, Koch decided to quit playing basketball and be strictly on the track and field team. Here, her career took off as she ended up being named a ten time all-American and winning nine NSIC Championships in six different events. She also broke records in the indoor pentathlon and outdoor heptathlon. Her heptathlon record was broken this past outdoor track season.

After Koch collegiate career was over, she didn't stop competing. She began to coach and served as a coach for Concordia St. Paul from the fall of 2013 until the spring of 2015. Koch competed on the global stage for multiple years, and in 2016 she finally got her shot at the Olympics. This

past August, Koch competed in the heptathlon in Rio. The heptathlon is an event that is a combination of seven other events that are scored. The individual with the most points at the end of the two-day competition is awarded the winner.

Speaking with Koch, she mentioned what it felt like to represent the USA by saying, "It is a humbling an unforgettable experience to wear the stars and stripes on your uniform." She went on to say, "I have always set pretty high goals for myself athletically, but I have always been pretty real with myself knowing my capabilities. I didn't even compete in the heptathlon until my third year of college when I was 21 years old, and even then I did it just to please my coaches and see if I was any good. I didn't realize that the Olympics were really attainable until maybe 2014. After the Olympic Trials in 2012 my

new goal was to make the Olympic team in 2016.

Some of the most unforgettable moments from the games were meeting fellow Olympians such as gymnasts Ali Raisman and Simone Biles, Olympic great Michael Phelps, NBA stars Kyrie Irving and Klay Thompson, and also spending time with Minnesota Lynx stars Maya Moore and Lindsey Whalen. Koch and Whalen talked for a bit about hoops, which Koch thought was pretty neat. Even after meeting all of these celebrities and superstars, Koch said her

most memorable moment from the games was finishing the final event of the heptathlon. She said, "My most memorable moment in Rio was crossing the finish line in the 800 and knowing that I finished a personal best time, and looking up and the stands and seeing my husband and family all in red USA shirts cheering me on.

Their support was amazing throughout this journey, so to see them cheering for me in the stands at the Olympic games is something I'll never forget. Koch ended up finishing in 18th place,

but did end up winning final event of the heptathlon, the 800.

The 2016 Summer Olympic Games was one for the record books. It was full of drama, controversy, and heartwarming stories, and it is sure to be one that this Golden Bear will never forget.



Teddy Bridgewater

By Loc Loung

Teddy Bridgewater, projected first pick in the 2014 NFL draft, but fell to 32 to the Minnesota Vikings. After a successful career at Louisville, Bridgewater was ready to make his mark in the NFL. After a successful rookie year, with him receiving the Pepsi NFL Rookie of the year, and leading the Vikings to a 6-6 record in his 12 starts. Bridgewater's future in the NFL was looking bright. With momentum going into his second year Bridgewater led the Vikings to an impressive 11-5 record, and a division title. After a miss field goal in the Wild Card round against Seattle, everyone knew what the Vikings were capable of doing.

Although Bridgewater's stats aren't eye popping or comparable to greats like Tom Brady, Aaron Rodgers, Peyton Manning, Bridgewater knew how to

get the job done. With an average completion rate of 65% in his first two years, Bridgewater was one of the most precise young quarterbacks in the game. After throwing 14 touchdowns, and nine interceptions in his second tenure with the Vikings, Bridgewater was poised to take that next step in his third year with the Minnesota Vikings.

After a disappointing loss in the Wild Card round against the Seahawk, the Vikes were ready to make a comeback, and prove to the NFL world what they're capable of. With a strong preseason, and training camp many NFL experts had the Vikings poised to make it further then what they did last year.

With a healthy Bridgewater, a newly revamped defense, and the addition of rookie Laquon Treadwell, the Vikings were ready to make the jump from division champion to super bowl champion.

With two seasons under his belt, and going into his third year, Bridgewater was ready to take the Vikings to the next step. He just would have to wait for OTA's, training camp, and then the preseason. Bridgewater played in two of the four-preseason games, one he sat due to Zimmer's decision. Before the fourth and last preseason game Bridgewater suffered a non-contact injury. He dislocated his knee, and tore his ACL. He was rushed to hospital, and the Vikings canceled practice early.

Bridgewater is a fighter, and Viking nation there is nothing to worry about. As he stated "his purpose won't be denied." The bigger the setback, the bigger the comeback. With that being said, Bridgewater will hopefully return next season, stronger then ever, and bring a title to Minnesota in front of the home crowd at U.S Bank Stadium.



Photo by Associated Press Teddy Bridgewater



Food Review: Delicious, Flavorful, and Fresh: Nacho Mama's

By Mainbia Moua

Stillwater is known for its small and lively community away from the cities. Many Minnesotans and Wisconsinites pass through this small town only to get a small glimpse of the scenic St. Croix River and the city's numerous family-owned restaurants, bookstores, candy stores, and antique stores that fill up the busy streets. However, for broke college students like me who are busy shuffling between work and school in the Twin Cities, I don't get the chance to explore these small towns and enjoy a meal in a place out of my comfort zone. Instead of my weekly meal at Chipotle, I decided to check out a different restaurant to satisfy my Mexican cravings.

My sister and I decided to visit Stillwater's Nacho

Mama's, a modern and fusion Mexican restaurant in the heart of the city.

Located on the corner of Nelson Alley and St. Croix Trail, Nacho Mama's interior and exterior decorations please the eye. An exterior brick wall gives it a vintage feeling, while the window is plastered with bright yellow and purple neon colored stripes. There is an outdoor patio with plenty of seating and a beautiful water fountain to enhance sounds of nature. And where do I begin with the interior decoration? The lobby area has orange walls with serpent figurines mounted on the wall.

To the left were straw hats, bowls of candy, and clothing hung on sticks inspired from Caribbean and Tex-Mex style. String lights of different colors cut across the bar room and dining room, creating a colorful and lively atmosphere that will surely catch your eye. The music consisted of funky upbeat salsa-like music that



Nacho Mamas

pumped up our spirits.

The menu is divided up into four sections: a large appetizers menu, specialty entrees, taco house dishes, and a salad and desserts page. It is important to note that Nacho Mama's also have vegetarian options as well. We started off with their famous Mexican City Corn on the Cob as an appetizer. It was a roasted ear of corn smothered with cilantro butter, chipotle sauce, cheese and spices with a lemon wedge for sourness. Warning: prepare to get messy! Cream will get on your face and all over your fingers; don't let that

scare you! Although it was messy, it was some of the most delicious and flavorful corn I have ever tasted. The corn was juicy and the combination of the cream spread, butter, and spices creates a sweet and sour tangy taste. No regrets; the corn is a must-have.

For my main entrée, I ordered a \$15 Chimichanga, and let me just say: huge! My plate was completely covered with beautiful food and colorful goodness. Which consisted of my choice of shredded chicken (there are several meat choices to choose from) wrapped in a flour shell with

rice, beans, and shredded cheese. It was topped with their special Nacho Daddy's chimi sauce and served on a platter with rice, beans, shredded lettuce, and sour cream. The chicken was moist and soft, and the combination of it with the rice, beans, cheese, and sauce gave me a little zing of savory and spicy. What a fulfilling, luxurious meal!

My sister ordered Classic Fajitas; her choice of steak mixed with red, green, and yellow bell peppers and onions tossed together in a skillet. We were even more shocked that her entrée came out with an extra dish of toppings! Cheese, guacamole, chips, beans, sour cream, lettuce—everything you need to make your most perfect fajita! Again, large portions, and we are not going to complain about that! The fajita had a kick of spice; it was a little more greasy than we thought, but in combination with all the other toppings, we barely noticed the grease.

Overall, we left Nacho Mama's feeling completely satisfied and content. Our stomachs were also happy as well, although we wished we could have saved space for dessert. The Nacho Fried Ice Cream sounded interesting and we will surely come back! As a person who has always eaten and cooked food from my own Hmong culture, I have never gotten the chance to explore other cultures' food! So take a walk down Stillwater and St. Croix River, and treat your stomach to some wonderful Mexican food at Nacho Mama's!



By Abigail Smith, *It's Kind Of A Funny Story*

Book Review: It's Kind of a Funny Story – Ned Vizzini

By Mara Grau

Written by Ned Vizzini, *It's Kind of a Funny Story*, is a light-hearted novel about a depressed teenage boy. The protagonist, Craig

Gilner, resides in Brooklyn, New York, with his parents and younger sister. When Craig was in junior high, he began to study obsessively for an entrance exam to the most prestigious high school in Manhattan. Once he is accepted to the school, he begins to realize that it isn't all that it's cracked up to be

and his mental health begins to deteriorate along with his grades and his self-esteem.

He labeled the negative and problematic things in his life. Craig saw various therapists, and was on an anti-depressant medication for about a month until he stopped taking it because

he didn't notice a change. Eventually, Craig becomes so depressed that he decides to check himself into psychiatric wing of a hospital.

During his five days spent in the hospital, Craig learns a lot about himself, and meets many new people – some that are depressed like him. He realizes that it's perfectly okay to not be okay. More importantly he learns that everyone has their own problems but surrounding yourself with people who don't keep their problems hidden is always more worthwhile. The things that Craig learns are universal, everyone can benefit from understanding them, which is what will happen by the time you finish reading the book.

Even though the protagonist is a teenager, those who are past their teenage years will enjoy *It's Kind of a Funny Story*. A majority of the population will be able to

relate to this novel, whether it's because they have dealt with depression themselves, or someone they care about has.

It's Kind of a Funny Story is loosely based on author Ned Vizzini's own five day stay in a psychiatric hospital in Brooklyn, New York. Vizzini began writing this novel a week after he was released in December, 2004. Vizzini's novel tackles the difficult topic of depression and mental illness with a light comedy that does not offend. By the end of the novel, your heart will be warmed by the charming character of Craig Gilner. Vizzini's other novels are also based on his experience growing up in New York, and they mostly contain characters similar to Craig.

Nine years after his stay in the hospital, in 2013, Vizzini committed suicide, tragically ending his writing career. Even though he is no longer with us, Ned Vizzini's

It's Kind of a Funny Story is still a popular novel that impacts many people's lives.

**"surrounding your-
self with people
who don't keep their
problems hidden is
always more worth-
while".**



Movie Review: Suicide Squad

By Katrina Bell

If you haven't seen the reviews, let me tell you—they aren't good. Rotten Tomatoes has given it a 26%. The Guardian only gave it a 2/5. Put together in a comic book format, in typical DC fashion, Suicide Squad was a mess of characters and a jumbled plot, but that didn't keep me from loving it.

Harley Quinn, played by Margot Robbie, is the Jokers utterly devoted and completely psychotic girlfriend. Suicide Squad delved into the background of Harley Quinn. Even though in interviews Margot Robbie has stated that she is uncomfortable with Harley and The Jokers

relationship, she was able to indulge in and become her character. The relationship between Harley and The Joker was very different from how it is portrayed in the comics. Whereas the comics highlight the incredibly abusive yet devoted and charming nature of both characters, Suicide Squad led audiences to believe that there was real love and devotion that was reciprocated from the Joker to Harley. The King and Queen of Gotham City were both played incredibly well. Fans were very upset about the lack of scenes with the Joker, played by Jared Leto, although the trailers feature him substantially. Truth be told, pretty much all of his scenes were in the trailers. Compared to Heath Ledger's dark and sadistic Joker, Leto did not

let go of his inhibitions for his portrayal, bumming out those who adored Ledger's Joker. On the other hand, Leto's take on the Joker as a gangster and homicidal maniac was well done and convincing for the few scenes that he was in.

"Deadshot", portrayed by Will Smith, was played extremely well. He was given an accurate background and the audience were given reasons to sympathize for the mercenary who couldn't miss.

Viola Davis can be seen as a villain herself in this movie, playing Amanda Waller, a government official whose job is "to get people to act against their own self-interest for the national security of the United States." She is the one who puts together the

"Suicide Squad" in order to protect the U.S. against the "metahumans" such as "the next Superman". Using the squad in her own manipulative ways, she is the reason that the events of the movie happen and, in the end, she is broken down as an evil and helpless human that you can't even love to hate.

The soundtrack to the movie is spectacular and keeps the movie going in its fast-paced and comic-book way.

Unfortunately, although some of the characters are promising and unique, others are merely placed in the movie without any backstory and hardly any introduction. The plot is also extremely lacking and jumbled. When Enchantress, the sorceress from another world, breaks

away from the group, she causes a near apocalypse type catastrophe. Instead of having the squad try to take her down, their mission is about saving Amanda Waller from being stranded, which makes no sense because a helicopter comes to get her from the very roof of the building they supposedly save her from.

Despite everything, the silver linings of the main

characters, the soundtrack, and the fast-paced comic book theme made me love this movie, and I think the critics who gave it such bad reviews were way too harsh. I think there is room for Suicide Squad to grow, and I hope there is a Harley Quinn-Joker movie in the making.



www.moviesdeskback.com, Suicide Squad



Photo submitted by Mainbia Moua, Debra Beilke and Mainbia Moua

Expanding Her Horizons: Washington D.C. Internship of Mainbia Moua

By Renee Cortez

Mainbia Moua is a senior at Concordia University St. Paul and is majoring in English. She hopes to one day become a teacher just like the professors that teach her now. Back in the spring she was told some wonderful news. The English and Modern Languages Department Chairperson, Dr. Debra Beilke, was attending a conference in Washington D.C towards the end of the summer, and she was nominating Moua to be an intern there. Out of several students nominated

across the nation, she was one of the two interns picked for the program. Moua was in delightful disbelief. "I thought I had no idea or chance to get in, but I cannot believe (even to this day) that the Center for Hellenic Studies selected me to help them out as an intern; I am truly blessed," she stated.

The internship position was located at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, D.C. and the organization that hosted it was the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC). Moua earnestly prepared all summer. "When I was selected as a Seminar Intern for this internship, I was extremely

excited! I was so happy to be able to get the chance to study somewhere away from the Twin Cities and do something so different that was out of my comfort zone," she said.

The internship and conference was to last roughly three weeks. Moua was offered housing on the campus of the Center of Hellenic Studies during her stay. Some tasks she did while in the internship were helping to assemble materials for the seminars, taking notes and providing general assistance during the seminar sessions.

She participated in the discussions during the seminar, processed videos

and podcasts from the seminar sessions, and helped with the preparation of the teaching and research materials associated with the workshop.

Her time there was filled with many rich experiences, some of which were challenging and some that were fruitful for her career path. The most rewarding experience for her was being able to interact, learn, and connect with professors and scholars from all over the nation. She believes this opportunity opened up many doors for her future. "I would like to eventually become a professor or work in higher education, and being able to interact with professors gave me the chance to see how they are still able to learn new material and incorporate it with what subject(s) they are currently proficient in," Moua said. Also, from a cultural standpoint, being in D.C. has made her open up her eyes to see how big the world really is and how many vast opportunities exist in it for her.

The most challenging experience for her was familiarizing herself with

the material because, prior to the conference, she did not have much experience with Greek and Classical studies, which was what the event was mainly about.

After the seminar ended, the professors and the interns exchanged

contact information and that network that she developed there seems to be continuing. "There are a few faculty members who I got the chance to connect more on a deeper level, and I hope that I am able to see

Continued on page 13

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Continued from page 12

them again,” she stated. She also added that she hopes to go back to the Center for Hellenic Studies as a visiting fellow one day.

When asked what was the number one skill she took away from this internship, she responded, “I learned to expand my reading range. I know it sounds cliché, but I got a chance to reconnect with my own self, wants, and needs as I was in a new environment away from home. I realized that in order to create beautiful works, it is essential to read everything.”



By Celene Paez

Art Spotlight: Celene Paez

By Farha Ibrahim

Majoring in Studio Art and minoring in Psychology, Celene Paez has always been passionate about



Photo submitted by Jose Paez, "The Feast"

creating art. In fact, one of her fondest memories growing up was in fourth grade where she had two art classes a week. At Concordia, Celene is co-manager of Concordia's art gallery, a Peer Advisor, and involved in Concert and Jazz band.

Earlier this year, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church contacted the Head of Art Department, Keith Williams, in search of students to create a mural. Keith suggested that Celene would be a great fit for the

project. Once Celene heard the news, she could not have been more honored and excited. The mural Our Saviour's Lutheran Church wanted was inspired by the Bible's Revelations 7:9-12.

While she was driven throughout the summer, Celene did have her ups and downs. One of the things she enjoyed was the whole mural making process and working side by side with her mentor Keith Williams. However, Celene did run into some challenges creating the mural: "The

hardest part of creating the mural was during the sketching process, when I had to accurately portray the scale and proportions of the objects within the mural's design onto the wall."

An idea she thought of to ensure accuracy was to use a digitally drawing program to draw each part of the mural digitally. She hooked up her computer to a projector. Then projected the image onto the wall. Finally, she moved the projector as needed and traced the image onto the

wall to get the correct scale and proportions. A very long and extensive process. The mural ended up being 84 ½ ft x 12ft.

At last, approximately three months in the making, she completed the mural. What Celene's creation presents is all God's children. It is meant to portray a sense of community where all nations and cultures come together before God, to praise God and enjoy a never ending feast with Him. It is her dedication and perseverance that led

"In March 2010, my mother caught me drawing all over my bedroom wall. She quickly scolded me for ruining the paint. The next day my mother came up to me and gave me permission to color on my wall. But on one condition: Make It Big. Today, 6 years later, I started drawing on another wall, an 80ft x 16ft gym wall, for the purpose of a paid commission by Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, St. Paul. Is this big enough, mom?"

her to become the wonderful artist she is today. Celene is a prime example of, "if you work hard and put in the effort, opportunities to utilize your skills will arise."

Photography Techniques: An Exhibition on the Art of Teaching

By Mainbia Moua

Pablo Picasso once said that “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.” In order to maintain and respect appreciation for arts and crafts, it is important to teach and guide the future generation how to appreciate fine arts and creativity. That is one of the reasons why local Minnesota photographers came together to share their works and techniques of photography at Concordia Gallery's biennial exhibition called “The Art of Teaching.”

On September 8th, a group of over 15 artists came together to share and display

their artwork at Concordia Gallery. Displayed on the walls of the gallery were several photos of nature, buildings, architecture, and self-portraits. There are grids of black and white photos, multi-colored collections, and photo-shopped images, to name a few.

Exhibit-goers also noticed that every piece of artwork included an artist statement with a small photo of a camera type; the artists explained the use of their particular camera in shooting their photos. One of the main points of this exhibit was to showcase the different photographic techniques in order to teach others how to work with a variety of different camera types. The cameras ranged from Canon 5Ds to Sinar, iPhones, iPads and even to pinhole cameras

created from the containers of potato chip tins. These photographers went to extreme lengths to show that one does not need to have the most expensive or innovative device to capture images.

Dave Johnson, one of the featured photographers, displayed his work, “Modern Day Gothic City,” displaying the Manhattan Bridge on an overcast grey day with the insertion of the Forshay Tower in the middle of the frame. His work was taken with a handheld camera in HDR style. Johnson displays the techniques of merging together separate images at different exposures in order to create one masterpiece.

He also aligned everything up in order to take detail from shadow areas and maintain the details in the

highlighted areas.

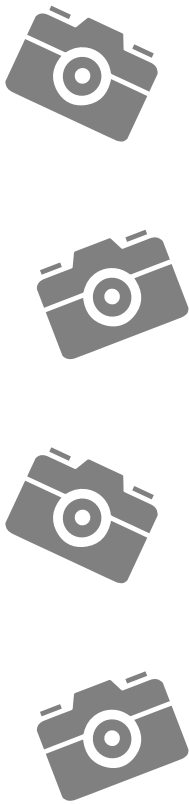
Several photographers had also put a spin on twenty first century technology by using iPhones or iPads as their photography devices. Susan Boecher uses an iPhone to capture her artwork, a self-portrait of herself. Laura Miglorino also used an iPhone and an iPad as her camera in order to take a make images in a new and modern way, playing with lighting and shadows in her compilation of black and white photos.

The event continued with photographers circulating the Concordia Gallery, talking to students, professors, local artists, and attendees about their techniques and artwork. The lively mood and atmosphere created a place where people of all sorts could come

together and learn.

When asked if he had any advice for prospective and current artists, Johnson says, “There is money out there if you work at it. You can't wish it's going to come to you; the more you network, the more you learn.” Johnson also emphasized the main point of the exhibit by saying that digitalization and technology gives people the opportunity to create different pieces of art and products.

People must be creative and use these innovations to the best of their ability. The Art of Teaching exhibition will continue being displayed in Concordia Gallery until October 1.



Steph Guidera- Guest Artist

By Brooke Steigauf

CSP was thrilled to welcome guest artist Steph Guidera to the H. Williams Gallery for the month of September. Her collection consisted of a series of oil paintings that she had been working on over the course of the last two years. Each of the pieces in her collection depicted a woman's body, whether it was in full or segmented, floating in an abyss of deep blue color. Somewhere on each body was a sea creature of sorts, with the woman's facial expressions ranging from disparity to calamity, which was portrayed using accents of red and purple in her skin tone.

Guidera attributed the inspiration of the series to a dream she had. In this dream, she disclosed that she was at an aquarium, standing outside the glass of a large tank of water with a few other bystanders. Inside

the tank, she explained, there were woman stuck underwater with these creatures growing off of them. She said neither she nor the other outsiders knew how the women were enclosed in the tank or why. Upon awakening, Guidera went straight to the studio and created a collection of masterpieces which depict strong emotion, abstractness, and symbolism.

Guidera explained that she interpreted the sea creatures as some kind of unwanted growth that each of the women, and many of us, have obtained throughout our lives, whether it be anxiety, depression, or any other unwelcome event or emotion that has been experienced. The discoloration of their skin was to be interpreted as the mental or physical bruising and scarring that these events, thoughts, or feelings can leave with us. She illustrated the women's coping mechanisms in the facial expressions, revealing whether they

chose to struggle and drown under the weight of their unfortunate situations or simply find peace and acceptance of fate at the bottom of the pool.

Steph Guidera did a beautiful job depicting mental illness, misfortune, and disparity through creative, heart-felt artwork. She captured the true reality of these heavy emotions that are relatable to every viewer, and was able to put such strong character, passion, and empathy into each individual piece in the collection.

Music Review: Dixie Chicks

Brooke Steigauf

The Dixie Chicks have been an inspirational music group to millions of diverse fans, music makers, female musicians, and activists across the globe. Starting in 1989, the Dixie Chicks quickly rose to fame with their first album, Wide

Open Spaces, which captured America's want for down-to-earth, traditional bluegrass mixed with pop-country's upbeat, honest lyrics and rhythm. This combination is what sets them apart from so many other artists in these two genres, as well as in the history of music. Further distinguishing themselves, they created songs with heart-wrenching lyrics and others that possessed unparalleled beats and rhythms that made America laugh and dance with joy and fun.

The three band members include Martie and Emily Erwin, Texas-born sisters who developed a sound and talent for music at a surprisingly young age, with Martie on the fiddle and Emily playing the five-string banjo. Lead vocalist Natalie Maines joined the pair to create a well-loved folk-country band which developed a more contemporary sound as they established their own style. The Dixie Chicks are

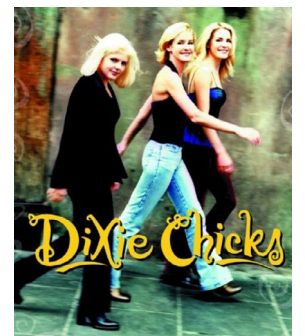
often credited for bridging the gap between traditional country and pop through their modern twist on folk music. Wide Open Spaces went quadruple platinum during its first year of release and marked a turning-point for country music.

Not only did the band capture the true essence of country and bluegrass combined, they also created meaning in their lyrics and in their roles as musical icons. Using their voices in more ways than just singing, they spoke about their views on the Iraqi War and President Bush. Their music was subsequently protested and boycotted while the musicians received death threats.

This not only damaged their musical popularity, but it also tore at the friendship the three women had developed. During this period of perseverance, the women continued to write music, expressed their emotions on their situation at hand. They

expressed remorse to those they offended but stood their ground on the issues, as discussed in their songs "Not Ready To Make Nice" and "Taking the Long Way".

This made the Dixie Chicks admired by some and hated by others, however, many still see them as an icon of simply good music and strong beliefs.



www.rollingstone.com, Dixie Chicks album cover





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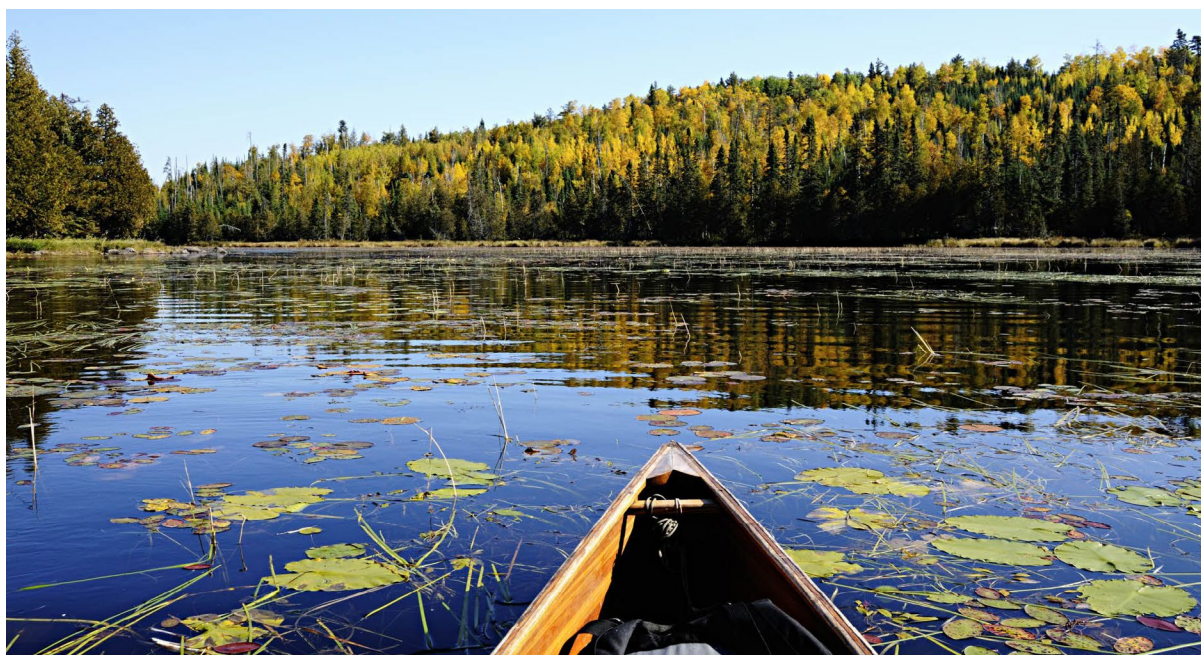
Sulfide Mining in the Boundary Waters: Battle for the Boundary Waters

Brooke Steigauf

In past decades, sulfide mining has been an unprofitable pursuit due to inefficient processing technology and equipment. Thanks to recent advances, this is no longer the case.

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) is now under harsh debate for whether or not this type of mining should be permitted in the nature reserve.

Sulfide mining is different from iron ore mining, which is common in Minnesota. Sulfide mining, which extracts copper, nickel, and other metals, has a larger and longer-lasting impact on the surrounding environment. When rain mixes with sulfide ore waste, it causes a reaction that yields sulfuric acid. This acid then runs throughout the



www.dnr.state.mn.us

waterways, contaminating the drinking water and the wildlife habitat.

The clean-up fee for the mining companies is very high and therefore, many companies are unable to pay it, leaving them with no choice but bankruptcy and the habitats are either

destroyed or cleaned up by taxpayer dollars. Since the updates in technology, mining companies have been submitting proposals, attempting to gain the land for their profits.

These proposals are likely to become a bigger project now that the traditional

iron ore mining companies have taken flight across Minnesota for decades.

PolyMet Mining Corp. is the closest to being permitted into the area, although they were rejected a second time in 2014 for providing an insufficient amount of information

about their plan and a number of problems in their proposal.

The benefits of mining are attributed to the people involved. The mining would bring a plethora of jobs to Northern Minnesota and bring in more revenue for those residing in the

area. Surprisingly, most of the people in favor of the mining are the locals since they are the ones that would receive a portion of the profit and benefits. It's understandable why city-folks, BWCA lovers, and environmentalists are so opposed to the virtually untouched land being harmed. What hasn't been considered is the benefits it would have for the humans surrounding the area.

Still, more than 58,000 public comments have been submitted on the issue, of those, 98% were opposed to the mining. The state is facing the decision of giving the benefits to the surrounding city and mining companies or the environment.

To support the boundary waters, sign the petition at savetheboundarywaters.org.

Prison Reform

Jerry Freels

In this country, there is a debate every year about prison reform and how to treat and discipline inmates and convicted people. There was and is always the question of how to deal out punishments to people convicted of crimes in this country, whether or not to send them to prison for their crimes or come up with an alternative punishment for them. 87 percent of the country's inmates are in state prisons, so any moves to cut the country's prison population would rely on states and counties to lock up substantially fewer people. Some states are taking steps that could lead to this outcome, but not on a scale or at a pace that would end mass incarceration.

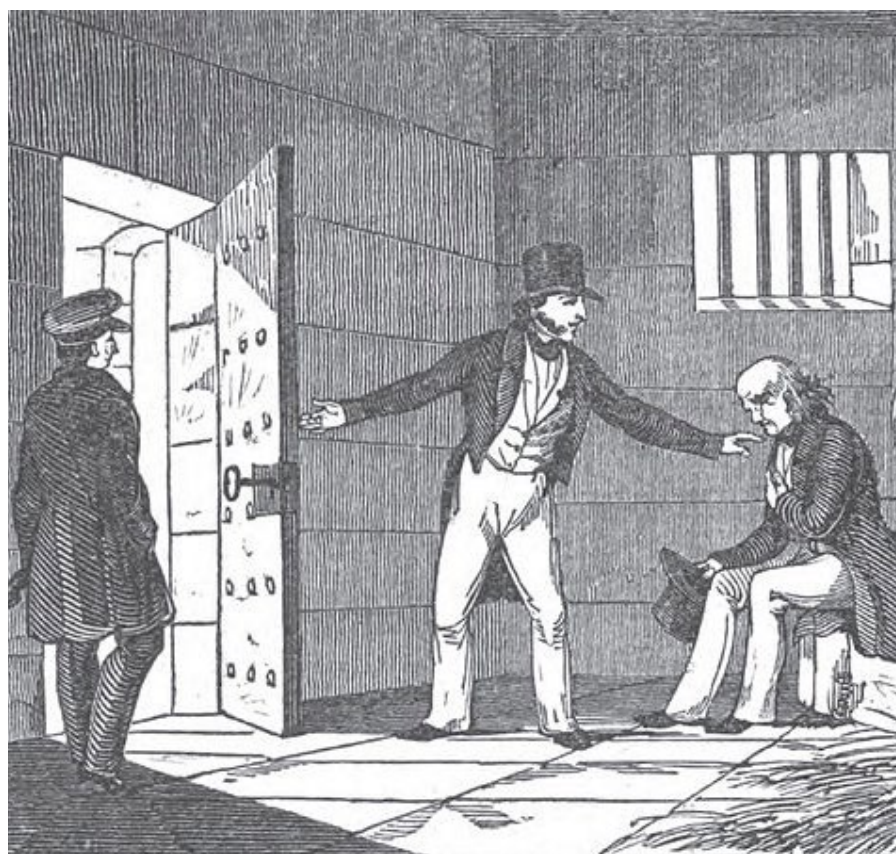
Presidential candidates have provided ambitious

policies on prisons. Secretary Hillary Clinton wants to cut mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug offenses and reduce the mandatory penalties for a second or third violent offense. Senator Bernie Sanders proposed eliminating mandatory minimums and called for a ban on private prisons.

Helping defendants could also reduce the number of people in state prisons, which was 1.35 million in 2014. One reason that prosecutors send more people to prison might be that many defendants don't get competent legal help from public defenders, who have overwhelming caseloads. Fordham Professor John Pfaff proposes that the federal government spends \$4 billion per year on public defenders in the state and county systems,

which he says might be a shield against overzealous prosecutors. Why not send the inmates to a camp for rehabilitation where they focus on helping out these convicts? It would be a lot more cost effective, and in the end we will be spending less on prison sentences. Set up a country-wide program that will help them get back into the workforce once released from the camp or prison lessening.

Such questions may not be answered soon, but the debate over the large prison population has taken on such a prominence in this presidential campaign that it might not be long before the candidates start asking more detailed questions about its causes, and what can be done to address them.



www.vice.com, Prison Reform

Restructuring the Electoral System

By Jordan Peiser

Contrary to what many believe, Americans don't live in a democracy; America is actually a Democratic Republic. The reason for this is because our founding fathers knew how dangerous it was when democracies crumbled. In fact, we can look at more recent examples of democracies with limited checks failed. For example, Hitler's rise to power.

He was democratically elected because of a majority that was angry at other nations for how Germany was unfairly targeted post WWI and voted for the most corrupt leader in history. Our current system was erected with the

hope of guarding against majority mob rule lording their strength over a poor minority.

Here are suggestions for what we can do to balance our horribly flawed system that so many Americans feel unrepresented by—a system in which neither party seems really concerned with helping heal the scars our nation holds. It is not the destruction of the Electoral College, but a systematic reform which allows every American citizen a fair shot at having their voices heard.

I propose a system in which states would split their vote so that any party receiving at least 25% of the popular vote would take one fourth of the State. If Illinois, which boasts 21 electoral votes, were to have a Republican win 25% of the

votes, they would receive 5 of the Electoral votes.

This would be significant because it would force both parties to cooperate with each state because they can't just rely on that state voting like it always has. Rather, it now stands a chance of losing a substantial amount of ground and their candidate might just have more trouble making 270.

As a further attempt at this systemic reform, an area on the ballot should be included where you can vote for your first and second choice for president. Perhaps you are a Democrat who doesn't like Secretary Hillary Clinton, but you definitely don't want Mr. Donald Trump as President.

However, you're worried, if you vote third party, your



vote will not count. Under this reform, you can vote for Gary Johnson, who now would have a better chance since people will feel their vote is more significant. But, suppose he doesn't make 25% in your state, you can still vote for Secretary Clinton as your second choice.

If it takes less to take a decent percentage of a state, it encourages more people to vote, creates a higher incentive for independents, for example, to finally go out and cast their vote. Lastly, it gives everybody a bigger voice. This would force both major parties to address the tough issues that exist

more than they currently do. Perhaps we can see the day when more people have their voice heard without fear of being silenced by the system.

A Look on Traditional Schooling Versus Virtual Schooling

By Mainbia Moua

My friends are always shocked when I tell them that I took a physical education class online. With the increase in materialism and technology in today's society, we cannot ignore how vast technology has impacted our educational curriculum. Technology is shifting the curriculum even more than ever before. The way we've grown accustomed to writing notes on the chalkboard or cranking the wheel on the vintage pencil sharpener have been replaced with machinery that somewhat challenges our work ethic. Film and traditional overhead projectors are now replaced by the newest computer systems. The invention and implementation of Internet has opened new doors for instruction.

But maybe one door opened too wide: the fact that there is the option of not having to even physically attend classes in a traditional school building anymore. Virtual

schooling, the instruction of educational services conducted through Internet technology, has increased in the twentieth century. It is beneficial for many types of students: full time workers, physically disabled people, introverts, and far-distanced people. I have a friend who is attending her dream college John Jay College of Criminal Justice online because she's unable to move there. A 2013 study conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) show that at least 4.6 million undergraduate students participated in some sort of distance education.

Of course virtual schooling has its pros, but if we're staring at a computer screen or piece of technology all day, will that help us slowly lose the value of face-to-face communication and the ability to speak in front of others? After taking online classes for a year and working online with students for a year, I noticed that my vision became worse. My health deteriorated as I rushed to finish assignments. I was studying to pass the tests,

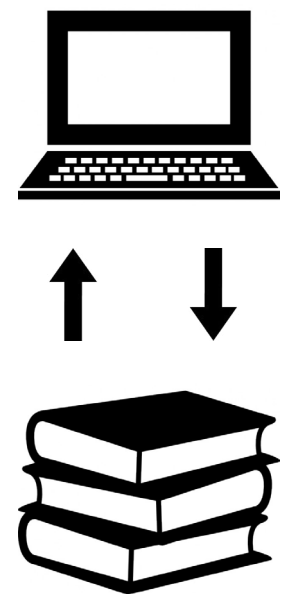
not to learn. Anya Kamanetz reports in her National Public Radio (NPR) article that virtual schools may be of lower quality considering its lower pay towards teachers. Little or no face-to-face interaction may be of a concern to certain people too, especially more visual learners. A con that I personally faced as an online student is time management as well.

From being in traditional "brick and mortar" schools for the first 15 years of my life to suddenly switching to online schooling, I have learned to not take traditional "brick and mortar" classes for granted. Because this society relies so much on technology, communication has hindered. Therefore, brick and mortar schools help increase face-to-face interaction in order to sustain relationships and ask for clarification. I truly appreciate getting the chance to speak and see all of my English professors weekly and building a relationship with them. It is also helpful in doing hands-on activities, like science labs or theater. I

can't imagine trying to teach yourself how to act at home without someone physically guiding you and watching you. Students get the chance to build their social circles as they integrate in discussions, school clubs, academic programs, and school events.

Brick and mortar schools allows us to step away from our machinery and see each others' faces, which (after several trial and error) I have learned is the most important. I am not going to say that virtual schools overpower brick and mortar

schools, or vice versa. I truly believe that some people are meant for virtual schooling and some are meant for brick and mortar schools. But I truly believe there should be a mixture of the both. Maybe opt for a hybrid option. Maybe take online schooling, but look into local tutoring services that can help you weekly. We should not let technology get in our way of hindering our skills of communication and education.



A Musician's Rainbow

By Renee Cortez

"Bye Mom, Bye Dad"

"Bye Sweetie"

And just like that they disappear.

Swept up in the line of cars exiting the parking lot.

I look up at the mounting building I will live in with fear.

What is this life in which I am now caught?

I walk up the stairs in

the structure as old as my ancestors

I place a picture of my prized beauty on the bed that I guess I can now call mine

I wonder how many times I will get to see him in these upcoming semesters

Will he ever get to shine?

Days pass and I walk the hallways in solitude

In the Buetow I see a shining light

Standing there, glorious in

all his fortitude

Could I be? Did he run away and find me in the night?

I run to him and embrace his rainbow of beauty

I hear a voice on the other side of the stage

"Do you play?"

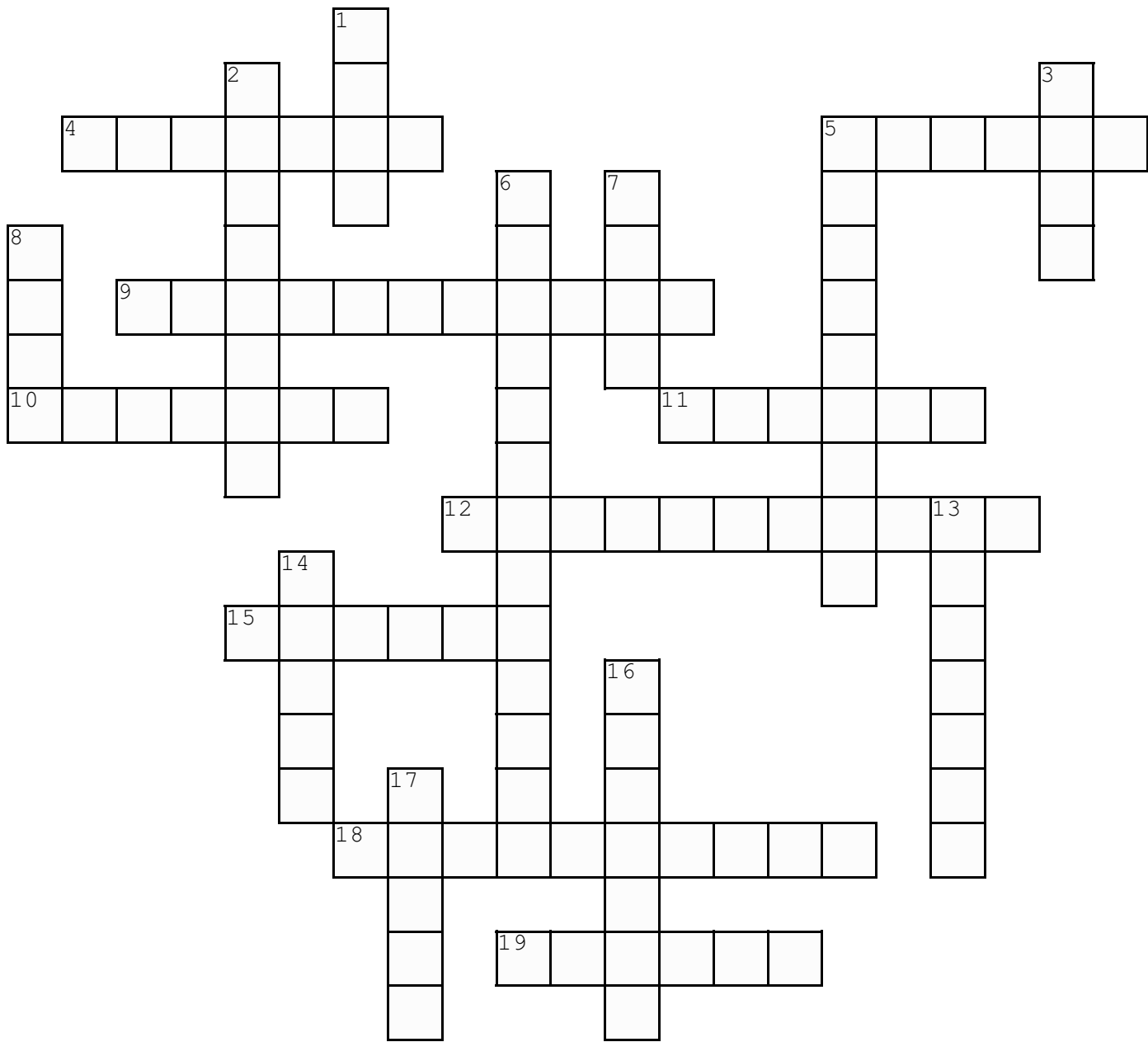
"Yes," I answer

I was never in solitude again for the music is always with me.

Name: _____

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Across

- 4. Irish restaurant nearby
- 5. A grouchy character
- 9. Sporty spheres
- 10. Ocean grass
- 11. Money
- 12. Good for the environment
- 15. Wine's beginnings
- 18. Handy with growing things
- 19. Desert find

Down

- 1. Frog's cousin
- 2. Herbal drink
- 3. Pods' insides
- 5. Train
- 6. Tasty fast-food drink
- 7. The result of too much gamma radiation
- 8. Grows in a damp place
- 13. Frog's seat
- 14. Palm leaf
- 16. Rabbit's dinner
- 17. Outdoor carpet